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23 November 1960

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

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PREMIER WILLIAMS OF TRINIDAD

The position taken by Trinidad's Premier Williams will determine to a large extent whether a satisfactory agreement can be reached at the second and more



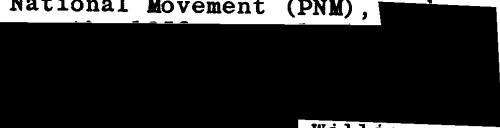
substantive stage of the US - UK - West Indies base talks, which opens on 28 November in Tobago between US and Trinidad representatives. Eric Williams, who is one of the Federation's dominant political figures, insisted vociferously from 1957 to 1959 that the United States abandon its naval base and missile-tracking facility on Trinidad's Chaguaramas peninsula to make way for establishment of the Federation's capital there.

In the past year, however, he has displayed a greater friendliness toward the US, and he now is concentrating on requests for economic aid and arrangements for joint use of Chaguaramas and training of the nascent West Indian military forces there. At the first-stage talks in London from 3 to 8 November, the Federation leaders asked for Tucker Valley within the Chaguaramas base for the capital, but Williams now may prefer to locate the capital on

one of the base areas which the US is already scheduled to release--such as Waller Field. His motive may be to obtain the Chaguaramas area exclusively for Trinidad when the US eventually gives it up.



Within a year, Williams developed his own political party in Trinidad, the People's National Movement (PNM),



Williams retains great popularity among the 47 percent of Trinidad's population that is Negro, and is likely to win next year's general election despite some dissatisfaction within the PNM over his dictatorial conduct.

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While he has some leftist lieutenants within the PNM, Williams has a basically moderate domestic policy and little interest in affairs beyond the West Indies.

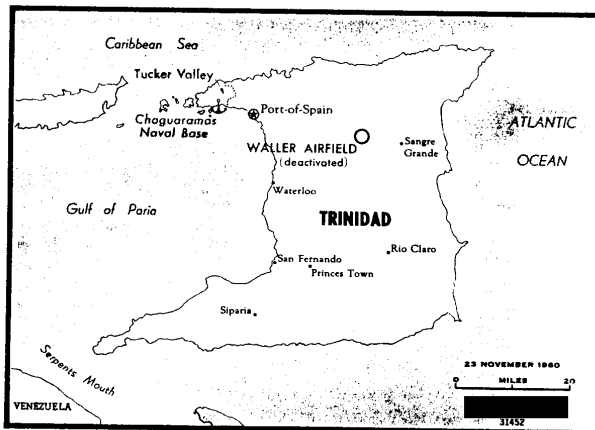
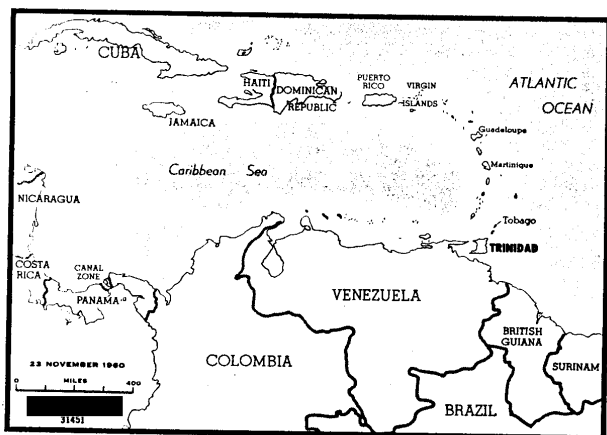


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He is probably capable of using his control over the police as a weapon

against his domestic political rivals. Williams is expected ultimately to become Federal prime minister.

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